

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5887

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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SUBJ: KUWAITI PRESS ON SYRIAN - PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT

REF: KUWAIT 3593

1. KUWAITI EDITORIALS JULY 31 AND AUGUST 1 WERE GENERALLY FAVORABLE AND OPTIMISTIC ABOUT SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT ON LEBANON. HOWEVER, ON EDITORIALIST THOUGHT AGREEMENT RISKS BREAKING UP PALESTINIAN ALLIANCE WITH LEBANESE LEFTIST FORCES, SPLITTING THE PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON INTO TWO FACTIONS, AND "NEUTRALIZING" THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION AS AN ELEMENT IN LEBANESE CONFLICT. HE ALSO THOUGHT THAT COMMUNIQUE WHICH ACCOMPANIED AGREEMENT HAD INDIRECT EFFECT OF SPLITTING PALESTINIANS EVEN FURTHER, SINCE SOME PALESTINIAN LEADERS REMAIN SILENT ON ANTI-
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EGYPTIAN CLAUSE WHILE OTHERS REJECTED CLAUSE. ANOTHER

WRITER, WHILE LAUDING AGREEMENT, NOTED THAT WHAT IS URGENTLY NEEDED IS HELP FOR WOUNDED AT TEL-ZAATAR.

2. PRESS DESCRIBED JULY 31 VISIT TO KUWAITI FONMIN BY LEADING PALESTINIANS IN KUWAIT ALI YASSIN, DIRECTOR OF PLO OFFICE IN KUWAIT, AND SALIM ZANUN, KUWAIT FATAH REP. FON MIN REPORTEDLY TOLD PALESTINIANS THAT HE FAVORED AGREEMENT, AS REPORTED REFTEL, BUT HE MADE NO COMMENT ON CONTENTIOUS SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN COMMUNIQUE. PALESTINIANS REPORTEDLY EXPLAINED TO FON MIN THAT PALESTINIANS THAT HE FAVORED AGREEMENT, AS REPORTED REFTEL, BUT HE MADE NO COMMENT ON CONTENTIOUS SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN COMMUNIQUE. PALESTINIANS REPORTEDLY EXPLAINED TO FON MIN THAT PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE COMMAND WAS IN ACCORD WITH AGREEMENT BUT PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT HAD NOT AGREED TO COMMUNIQUE BECAUSE LATTER CONTAINED POINTS WHICH SUGGESTED THAT THE PALESTINIANS WERE TAKING SIDES IN THE EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN PROPAGANDA EXCHANGE. PALESTINIANS ARE NOW STUDYING COMMUNIQUE. NON-APPROVAL OF COMMUNIQUE SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN TO MEAN PALESTINIAN REJECTION OF AGREEMENT WITH SYRIA.

3. AFTER VISIT DESCRIBED PARA 2, KUWAITI "OFFICIAL SOURCES" REPORTEDLY TOLD PRESS THAT KUWAIT FON MIN AND SAUDI OFFICIALS HAD CONSULTED IN TAYEF, SAUDI ARABIA, DURING PAST WEEK ON IMPLICATIONS OF SYRIAN-EGYPTIAN PROPAGANDA EXCHANGE OVER LEBANON, AND THAT BOTH SAUDIS AND KUWAITIS WERE RESOLVED TO DISCOURAGE UNHELPFUL PROPAGANDA FROM BOTH SIDES. SEPARATE REPORT NOTES, HOWEVER, THE KUWAITI FON MIN HAS NO PLANS TO VISIT DAMASCUS SOON.

4. KUWAITI PAPERS ALSO CARRIED LENGTHY INTERVIEW OF JULY 30 WITH SALAH KHALAF (ABU IYAD), PLO CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER AND FATAH LEADER, IN WHICH HE OFFERED HAND OF FRIENDSHIP TO OPPOSING FORCES IN LEBANON, EXPRESSLY EXCEPTING CHAMOUN, IN CONTEXT OF NEW SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENT WILL BEAR CAREFUL WATCHING IN ORDER THAT IT NOT SPLIT THE ALLIED PALESTINIAN AND LEBANESE FORCES, WEAKEN THE PALESTINIAN

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RESISTANCE MOVEMENT, AND ALLOW THE "CONSPIRATORIAL PLOT" TO BE PUT INTO EFFECT. ABU IYAD REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT ARAB LEAGUE MUST REPLACE SYRIA IN LEBANON SINCE SYRIA IS NOT AN OBJECTIVE COUNTRY BUT A PARTY TO THE FIGHTING. HE ALSO REPORTEDLY CAUTIONED AGAINST PALESTINIANS FALLING UNDER THE "PROTECTION" OF SYRIA, NOTING CONTINUING PALESTINIAN RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE INTENTIONS OF SYRIAN REGIME AND THE NEED TO RESIST ANY

ATTEMPT BY SYRIA TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AGREEMENT TO
DETRIMENT OF PALESTINIANS.
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